Consensus on Women's Reservation Bill

630. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Women Power Connect (WPC), a national level organization consisting of 500 groups and individuals working togetherwith the aim of formalizing the process of legislative coordination to generate awareness about 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) whether any consensus has so far arrived amongst the political parties/groups in Parliament on the provisions of the proposed Bill; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward any suitable legislation in this regard during the forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the objective of evolving a consensus on Women Reservation Bill, a meeting was called by the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) on 22.8.2005 in which the constituents of UPA and Left Parties participated and subsequently the Hon'ble Prime Minister held a meeting with the Leaders of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and other Leaders on 24th August, 2005. However, there was no consensus on the provisions of the Bill in both the above meetings. The main objection to the concept of reservation for women in Lok Sabha appears to arise from the rotational phenomenon which would break the link between the Member of Parliament and his/her constituency. These apprehensions are required to be removed before the Government could bring a new Bill in the Parliament.

Pending cases in Supreme Court

†631. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases lying pending at present in the Supreme Court;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.